Educationally backward districts in Andhra Pradesh

655. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are still a few districts in Andhra Pradesh which are educationally backward;

(b) what is the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of those districts, when compared to national GER;

(c) how Government is planning to address the educational requirements of those districts;

(d) whether any emphasis is given to target the districts at the block level;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether it is also a fact that the Planning Commission has recommended for setting up one college in each of such districts in the country during the Eleventh Five Year plan; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and what steps Government has taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (g) In the Independence Day Speech of the Prime Minister, it was mentioned that adequate numbers of colleges will be set up across the country especially in the districts where enrolment rates are low. Colleges will be set up in 370 districts in the country. The following districts have been identified as educationally backward in Andhra Pradesh:

1. Adilalad
2. Anantapur
3. East Godavari
4. Kurnool
5. Mahbubnagar
6. Medak
7. Nizamabad
8. Prakasam
9. Srikakulam
10. Vizianagaram
11. West Godavari

Some of the districts of Andhra Pradesh, which have been identified as educationally backward, may also benefit during the Eleventh Five Year plan period. The Eleventh Five Year plan is in the process of being finalized.

Deaths and serious injuries due to ragging

656. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, not withstanding several precautions taken and orders and directions issued to prevent ragging in higher educational institutions, serious

cases of ragging, resulting in deaths and serious injuries to many, have been reported this year;

(b) if so, the number of deaths reported this year and serious injuries caused due to ragging so far reported, with details thereof in each case; and

(c) what punitive steps are proposed against those not fully following orders/directions on ragging?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) While information on incidents of ragging is not Centrally maintained, the Committee for monitoring the recommendations of the Raghavan Committee on measures for prevention of ragging, also appointed by the Supreme Court, has come acrosss 70 cases of ragging reported in the print media during the current academic year (2007-08). Ragging is reported to be the cause of nine cases of suicide and three cases of serious injuries among these cases. The Central Government has drawn the attention of States and regulatory institutions [like the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), University Grants Commission (UGC), Medical Council of India] to the various recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee for Prevention of Ragging for implementation. This Ministry has also launched a media campaign through newspapers. Provisions of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 are attracted in appropriate instances and the directions of the Apex Court mandates filing of First Information Reports by institutions with local police authorities, wherever victims are not satisfied with the action taken by institutional authorities.

Literacy rate in the country

657. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present literacy rate in the country with particular reference to women and girl children;

(b) the details thereof State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the literacy rate achieved since three years among girls, rural and urban area-wise; and

(d) by when Government would achieve and provide literacy to all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Literacy rate in the country is collected only through the decennial census operations. As per the last Census conducted in 2001, the literacy rate of the country was 64.84% and female literacy was 53.67% in respect of the population aged 7 years and above. The literacy rate of Andhra Pradesh was 60.47% and the female literacy rate was 50.43%. A statement showing the State-wise literacy rates of all persons, males and females as per 2001 census is enclosed (*See* below).

(d) The Approach Paper to the XI Plan of the Planning Commission has set a target of achieving 85% literacy rate by the end of the Plan period.